

# Battalion EDITORIALS

Page 2

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1948

"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions

## South-Wide Educational System . . .

With the Supreme Court's latest decision in the Lois Sipeel Fisher case, and the action of southern governors in approving the south wide graduate school idea, it may be that the future pattern of Southern education is taking shape.

Yesterday the United States Supreme Court ruled that the question of segregation had not been involved in the Fisher case. Mrs. Fisher, a Negro woman, had previously been granted an order requiring that Oklahoma provide legal education for her, immediately, comparable to that available for white residents of the state. The Oklahoma regents quickly established a law school in connection with the Negro four-year college supported by the state, but Mrs. Fisher refused to enroll and asked the Supreme Court to declare the regents in contempt for not admitting her to the University of Oklahoma itself. This the court has refused to do, by a 7-2 vote.

President Harold W. Stole of LSU has announced that he expects the new Louisiana legislature will be asked to make possible the participation of that state in the proposed Southern higher education plan.

The regional plan, tentatively approved by Southern governors in their meeting at Wakulla Springs, Fla., will make possible regional development and financing of educational facilities that might otherwise be impossible for any one state.

Under this system, certain universities may be designated for specialization in individual courses and students from all over the South may attend that institution with no partiality shown the students of the home state.

For instance, if Georgia Tech should be designated the engineering school of the South, the whole region will finance the growth of that branch of the school and an Alabamian or Louisianian would have the right to attend on the same basis as a native of Georgia.

In the case of a Negro from any southern state seeking a medical degree, he would go to such a school as Meharry Medical College in Tennessee, which has been offered to the southern states for joint-support. (It is at present a private Negro medical college.) Meharry would be the state medical school for Negroes from any cooperating state.

The south-wide cooperative plan may not be of importance to white Texas students, as there are few courses, even of highly specialized nature, which are not offered either at the University or at A&M. However, it may be that Texas will wish to join the "confederation" so far as Negro schools are concerned.

The plan is certainly the most forward-looking step taken by Southeastern states in many years, so far as higher education is concerned.

## Ghosts Again . . .

Opponents of new ideas always have a stock pile of arguments at hand when the issue gets to the crucial stage. Currently Federal aid to schools is under fire by frightened minds who fear any change from the present as a threat to their security, and the old time-worn cries are again being raised.

These cries were uttered also in 1830 when tax-supported public education came up for adoption. The same cries heard today opposing federal aid to schools rang out then when newspapers fought public education with their choicest adjectives as a "foolhardy" plan. The time now as then is the same, and the words are only slightly changed.

"It's un-American" is the first and most shameful excuse advanced against federal aid. However, there is little in America today that can be termed completely American—even the Indians have had their blood diluted with that "awful European" blood and are no longer 100 per centers. This "un-American" excuse was used in 1830 against the system of public education we now have, and today the same arguments are being brought into play again.

"It's Socialism" the opponents wail, certain in their own minds that the term "Socialism" tacked on a project will cause any right thinking American to shun it like the plague. In 1830 "Agrarianism" served in the place of "Socialism." It was "applying the means of the rich to the direct uses of the poorer classes," truly a terrible thing in 1830.

"Federal aid will lower the standards of

education" is yet another plaint, practically the same that opponents of any sort of free and public education put forth in 1830. However, America achieved a creditable system of public education once the critics quit their criticizing and began pitching in.

Other fears included the destruction of initiative and ambition, destruction of private enterprise, and the rise of bureaucracy. Some of the cliches of thought, not necessarily born in 1830 but used then as now, reflect humanity's inherent desire for security, humanity's love of the static which is a known quantity, humanity's fear of change which is the stark unknown.

Even a change for the obvious promotion of the "general welfare" is fought tooth and nail on no other grounds than general principles—man's consistency whether right or wrong.

There is federal aid to counties for road-building, federal aid for housing, federal aid for prevention of disease, federal aid to farmers and federal aid for many other purposes. It has not clamped shackles on anyone's ankles. On the contrary federal aid has in many cases removed the shackles, paving the way for many new opportunities. Extending federal aid to our schools will improve the physical plants, raise the level of the teaching staffs, and furnish facilities heretofore unheard of.

Federal aid is now held up by the baseless fears of alarmists. When they cease screaming their meaningless phrases and get to work for the common good, then we can see our school system arise from mediocrity and begin to turn out good citizens.

From Jacksonville (N. C.) News and Views: "A birthday party was given at the home of Mrs. Weston Willis last Tuesday. Mrs. Willis proved a most charming ghost-ess."

Personal item in the Cambridge (Wis.) News which called for a correction later: "Mr. and Mrs. Edward Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. David Blanchard returned home Friday from a two week's strip through the East."

"Satura," the young woman involved in the Mee murder case, appeared in court wearing "a severe but close-fitting black silk stocking and black shoes," according to the Havana (Cuba) Post.

Betty Donovan, Cincinnati (O.) Post reporter, working on a murder story, dialed the General Hospital and heard a voice say: "Cincinnati Butchers." Her finger had slipped. The hospital's number is 3100, Cincinnati Butchers Supply Co. 4100.

Headline in the Sacramento (Calif.) Union: transportation Method Sought to Paradise." (Note, it's a nearby town.) "Boy, would I appreciate a ride!" writes the contributor.

Speaking of the housewives' share in the food conservation program, the Amarillo (Tex.) Times reported: "But these words haven't exactly been taken to the hearts and panties of the nation's women."

Our vote for the year's most unusual, if not most effective, poster panel goes to the one put up by Edwards Brothers Colonial Mortuary (Los Angeles) which reads: "Drive Safely—And Save A Life."

When a sports writer for the Detroit (Mich.) News came up with two byline stories on the same page, the composing room took special note of it. One story was "By Sam Greene." The other was "By Same Greene."

## The Battalion

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the City of College Station, Texas, is published five times a week and circulated every Monday through Friday afternoon, except during holidays and examination periods. During the summer The Battalion is published semi-weekly. Subscription rate \$1.50 per school year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

News contributions may be made by telephone (4-5444) or at the editorial office, Room 201, Goodwin Hall. Classified ads may be placed by telephone (4-5324) or at the Student Activities Office, Room 209, Goodwin Hall.

All-American Member of The Associated Press. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Rights of republication of all other matter herein are also reserved.

Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. Associated Collegiate Press Member Represented nationally by National Advertising Service, Inc., at New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, and San Francisco.

CHARLIE MURRAY, JIMMIE NELSON Co-Editors  
 Vink Lindley, Editor  
 J. T. Miller, Kenneth Bond, Louis Morgan, Managing Editors  
 Mack T. Nolan, Feature Editor  
 R. L. Billingsley, Larry Goodwyn, Feature Writers  
 Tom Carter, Ted Copeland, Truman G. Martin, C. C. Moore, C. C. Trail, James E. Nelson, Otto R. Kuntze, J. C. Yalls, John S. Singletary, Reporters  
 Maurice Howell, Advertising Manager  
 Grady Griffin, Photographer  
 Sam Lanford, K. J. Mrazk, Larry Gray, Cartoonists  
 Art Howard, Sports Editor  
 James DeAndre, Andy Manning, Editors  
 Hershel Shibly, Sports Writers  
 Bob Kennelley, Circulation Manager

"HEY! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!"



Boyle-ing Over . . .

## The Short and Unhappy Life Of Thomas Joseph Kavanagh

By JHAL BOYLE

NEW YORK —(AP)—Dead at 25, Thomas Joseph Kavanagh began his brief public career with a toy pistol and he ended it with another toy pistol clenched in his dying hand. Both times he was trying to bluff fortune in small-scale lone-wolf robberies. But between the two episodes he won six decorations as a valorous doughboy overseas.

The short unhappy life of this hero-criminal is a masterpiece in human irony—a strange jigsaw puzzle with the key fragment missing.

At the age of 16 Thomas Joseph Kavanagh, a Brooklyn boy of good family, tried to hold up a Manhattan jewelry store watchman with a toy pistol.

Perhaps because of his youth he was charged only with petty larceny. He pleaded guilty and received an indeterminate sentence.

War gave him the opportunity to redeem himself and he made good in full measure.

He served in Africa, and Italy. In that long "forgotten war" up the Apennines he was a front-line platoon commander for the veteran 168th Infantry Regiment.

Of all combat men platoon leaders have the highest mortality in battle. They take the lead where the metal flies thickest. Gen. George Patton once bluntly told a group: "Gentlemen, your duty is to be killed."

Thomas Joseph Kavanagh was

not killed. But he did get a Purple Heart for wounds in action. Among his other decorations were three that are given only for personal bravery above the call of duty—the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and an Oak Leaf Cluster.

I don't know what he fought the Germans with—a pistol, rifle, machine gun or mortar—but he fought them long, hard, often and well. And he learned how to use weapons that were loaded.

When he came home he left the army with an honorable discharge and a Good Conduct Ribbon.

Last Thursday evening Thomas Joseph Kavanagh walked into the Trans-Canada Air Lines office just off Fifth Avenue. His hand was in a brown paper grocery bag and he pointed it at the clerk.

"Here I am again," he said. "This is a stickup."

The clerk immediately recognized Kavanagh as the man who held him up last month and took nearly \$1,000. Two detectives were in a back room waiting for just such a return call.

They stepped out of separate doors, and as Kavanagh raised his arm menacingly they began firing. He fell dead. When they pulled his hand from the paper bag, they saw clenched in the ex-war hero's fist—a toy pistol.

Later Kavanagh's father was brought to identify the body. Police told him they also held his son responsible for three other lone robberies of the Colonial Airlines office. The gray-haired father held out his son's honorable army discharge and shook his head in wordless grief. He said Kavanagh only recently had enrolled in a university under the GI Bill of Rights.

What is the thing we don't know? What can make a man bravely risk his life time after time for his country—and then toss it away in a futile bluff with a toy weapon?

What gave Thomas Joseph Kavanagh the courage to be a stand-out hero in war yet left him without the long anonymous valor with which millions of other veterans are working out the problems peace brought them?

Death holds his answer!

## Letters

LIBRARY MANNERS?

Editor, The Battalion: How would you feel if you went to the periodical room of the library and got your favorite magazine only to find a large section torn out? Or worse still, maybe you have research to do in current technical magazines and find it made impossible by the butchering of some selfish person. I don't feel that I am alone in this complaint.

And another thing—what about the way Aggies are speaking? It seems that some of the guys who have been around a long time think most of us speak to them because we have to. Maybe there are some things we have to do, but speaking is certainly not one of them. We should consider it a courtesy and a privilege to speak, even if we receive no response. How about it, Aggies?

JOHN SHOEMAKER, '49

NOT "NOT COMMON"

Editor, The Battalion: What do you mean starting off yesterday's editorial "The man who puts up a fight for his education is not common at A&M?" That's directly contrary to what everybody knows, and seems to contradict the whole point of your editorial.

WICK VAN KOUENHOVEN

(Ed. NOTE—What a difference two little letters make! The proof-reader is red-faced from having let such a slip pass, while the editorial writer has had his knuckles rapped for writing such awkward and easily-twisted circumlocutions as "not uncommon" when all he meant was "common.")

## Bottling Course To Start March 1

The fourth annual short course under the auspices of American Bottlers of Carbonated Beverages, Washington, D. C., will be held at A&M March 1-13.

Truman M. Gill of Beville, national vice-president of the American Bottlers of Carbonated Beverages, will head the association committee sponsoring the program. In the past the courses have attracted 50 or more bottling plant executives and employees from Texas and neighboring states.

For MODEL AIRPLANE SUPPLIES Jones Sporting Goods 809 S. Main Bryan Ph. 2-2852

Trampling Out the Vintage . . .

## Gals Born 300 Years Too Soon; Leap Year Once Dangerous, Costly and Deadly Serious

By LARRY GOODWIN

1948 is a leap year, a fact which may not make much of an impression on most moderns—but take it from us, pal, the custom of women proposing to men hasn't always been as lightly regarded as is the case today.

Time was when the man-chasing traditions of leap year were strictly observed, according to Philip Jerome of New York who submits some rather interesting, if not eye-opening, information about proposals, medieval style.

According to Mr. Jerome, not only were leap year proposals by the "fairer half of creation" common, the male in question was bound by law to one of two courses: either he could accept and take the fatal step or refuse—and pay a fine. A volume published in 1606 entitled "Love, Courtship and Matrimony" declares: "as every leap year doth return, the ladies have the sole privilege during the time it continueth of making love either by wordes or looks; . . . and moreover, no man will be entitled to benefit of clergy who doth in any wise treat her proposal with slight or contumely." (The volume doesn't go on to explain what is meant by "making love by . . . looks.") Maybe 17th Century English "ladies" had mastered the art of the strategic "come hither" look.)

In Scotland, a law was inscribed on the statute books providing for a fine of one pound or more for any gentlemen rejecting a proposal of marriage. Obviously, the Communists with their "free love" ideas would have gone far in Scotland during this period when one pound was no small figure to a die-hard Scot.

Speaking of marriage and eligible bachelors, we notice in the Bryan News that Dr. T. F. Mayo, head of the English Department, was among the nominations for Bryan's "Most Eligible Bachelor" contest. We guess the venerable Doctor has made good use of his one pound notes down through the years.

The contest was won by Joe White, an A&M graduate of the class of '37.

Still on the subject of women, we gleaned the following from T. U.'s Daily Texan which seems to indicate the "fair ones" on the Forty Acres are going to take Leap Year matters in their own hands. A notice appeared in Wednesday's issue, stating: "Boxing Training begins, Women's Intramural Office."

Come, gals, things couldn't be that bad. If the field of worthwhile and willing males at dear ole T. U. is that lean, perhaps we might make a suggestion concerning where some thoroughly unused and quite willing talent may be found. Seven



thousand hours of talent in fact. And the boxing gloves aren't needed at all. If the rush is too great, a stout "No" and several well-aimed kicks will suffice. Need we say more?

An Associated Press story out of Fort Sill, Okla., carries a post-script to the yarn appearing in this column last week about the soldier who parlayed a few bears and a mechanical instinct into a one-man fight on the stark old army post. The soldier, T/4 Donald S. Williams, took a self-propelled howitzer out for a midnight tumble through Lawton, stopping intermittently along the course of his 12-mile jaunt, to hit trees, fireplugs, people and other assorted barriers.

The postscript is rather sad: T/4 Williams is now Private. Williams, minus \$180 pay and plus a month's hard labor.

The charge, typical of the Army's inclination toward understatement, was simply: "unauthorized use of a 155 mm. self-propelled howitzer."

## Bollworm Control Meeting Feb. 20

COLLEGE STATION —(AP)—A meeting at Comanche, Texas, on February 20 will discuss control of the pink bollworm, which this year is an unwelcome visitor to central Texas.

The A&M College Extension Service said that Eastland, Erath, Comanche, Mills, Hamilton, Coryell, Lampasas, and Burnet Counties, would be under pink bollworm quarantine in 1948 for the first time.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17 —(AP)—Extension of rent controls beyond February 29 became almost certain yesterday.

The House Banking Committee voted 18 to 5 in favor of continuing them for another month.

Chairman Wolcott (R-Mich) said this was only a stopgap move, adding it was "apparent" that the controls would be extended "at least for a year in some form." (As Wolcott spoke, the Supreme

Dr. John S. Caldwell  
 Optometrist  
 Caldwell's Jewelry Store  
 Bryan, Texas

## QUEEN

— TUESDAY —  
 — WEDNESDAY

BRILLIANT STARS! BRILLIANT STORY!  
 DANA ANDREWS  
 MAILE OBERON  
 NIGHT SONG  
 WITH ETHEL BARRYMORE  
 HUAGY CARMICHAEL  
 Arthur Rubinstein  
 Eugene Ormandy

THURSDAY—  
 — FRIDAY —  
 — SATURDAY

What An Affair It Was!  
 THE ARNELO AFFAIR  
 John HODIAK  
 George MURPHY  
 Frances GIFFORD

## Campus

Opens 1:00 p.m. 4.118

LAST DAY  
 A 1ST RUN ATTRACTION

Frank Borzage's  
 "THAT'S MY MAN"  
 DON AMECHE • CATHERINE  
 ANE • A REPUBLIC PICTURE

Feature Begins  
 1:20 - 3:30 - 5:40 - 7:50 - 10:00  
 — Plus —  
 PETE SMITH SPECIALTY  
 LATEST PARAMOUNT NEWS

STARTS TOMORROW  
 FOR TWO DAYS  
 "Forever Amber"

Admission Prices  
 Matinee: 80c (tax incl.)  
 Evening: \$1.30 (tax incl.)

## PALACE

TODAY AND ALL THIS WEEK

The Best Seller That Comes To Lusty, Vivid Life!

GREEN DOLPHIN STREET

LANA TURNER  
 VAN HEFLIN  
 DONNA REED  
 RICHARD HART

GUION HALL

TODAY — WEDNESDAY — THURSDAY

WARNER BROS.  
 MY WILD IRISH ROSE  
 DENNIS MORGAN  
 16 SONGS  
 ARLENE DANIEL • ANDREA KING • JOHN HALE • BOBBIE TRIPP • GEORGE QUINN • BOB BLUE • BOB LANGRISH

Greer Garson's Great  
 in M.G.M.'s  
 "Desire Me"  
 (Robert Mitchell and Richard Dix both desire her)  
 WATCH FOR IT! COMING TO GUION